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Goat Rocks

Wild
Area

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C & R PREP





THE GOAT ROCKS

On the east flank of the great triangle formed by three sentinels of the Northwest, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams & Mt. St. Helens, is a true alpine wonderland. This is the 82,680-acre Goat Rocks Wild Area, portions of which are located on two National Forests: Gifford Pinchot and Snoqualmie. Here a cluster of flinty pinnacles rise abruptly from dazzling snowfields and glaciers surrounded by beautiful mountain meadows carpeted with alpine flowers and weatherworn conifers. This is not all — there are meandering meadow streams and cascading creeks which abound with trout. Lastly, there are the wildlife that make this land their home.

This wilderness land, 18 miles long and 12 miles wide, derives its name from the bands of mountain goats which inhabit its rocky crags. The terrain is mountainous with elevations ranging from 3,000 feet to the 8,201-foot Gilbert Peak. On the east, the Tieton and Klickitat Rivers feed parched valleys with life-giving waters. On the west, the mighty Cowlitz River provides water for city and town dwellers.

Two large lakes, each more than a mile in length, lie adjacent to the boundary of the area. Pockwood Lake is nestled in a pocket of heavy timber near the northwest corner. Walupt Lake, partly within the area, occupies about a square mile in headwaters of the Cispus River, a valley badly scorched by forest fires many years ago.

The Yakima Indian Reservation borders the Goat Rocks Area on the southeast side, and supports considerable scenic mountain terrain, though access is closed to the general public.

This land of rugged scenic grandeur was established as the Goat Rocks Primitive Area in 1931. The original acreage of 50,100 acres was expanded to 72,440 acres in 1935. In 1940, the area was increased to its present size, 82,680 acres, and was designated as the Goat Rocks Wild Area by the Chief of the United States Forest Service.

CLIMATE

The heart of the Goat Rocks extends about six miles along the crest of the Cascades. The Goat Rocks provide a very abrupt barrier to the prevailing moisture-laden westerly winds and as a result, are responsible for extreme climatic variations and for the lush and varied vegetation. Rainfall or snowfall on the western slopes is relatively heavy. Snowfall often reaches depths of 10 feet, thus making this mountain land practically inaccessible except in July, August, and the first part of September. Deep drifts often remain at the higher elevations throughout the year. Sudden squalls of rain and occasionally snow accompanied by thunder and lightning are rather frequent in August. Though beautiful and peaceful, this mountain land may become vicious and trap the unprepared traveler.



Though heavy snow makes this land practically inaccessible during winter months, some who are physically fit, experienced and properly equipped may venture into this winter wonderland.



FLOWERS

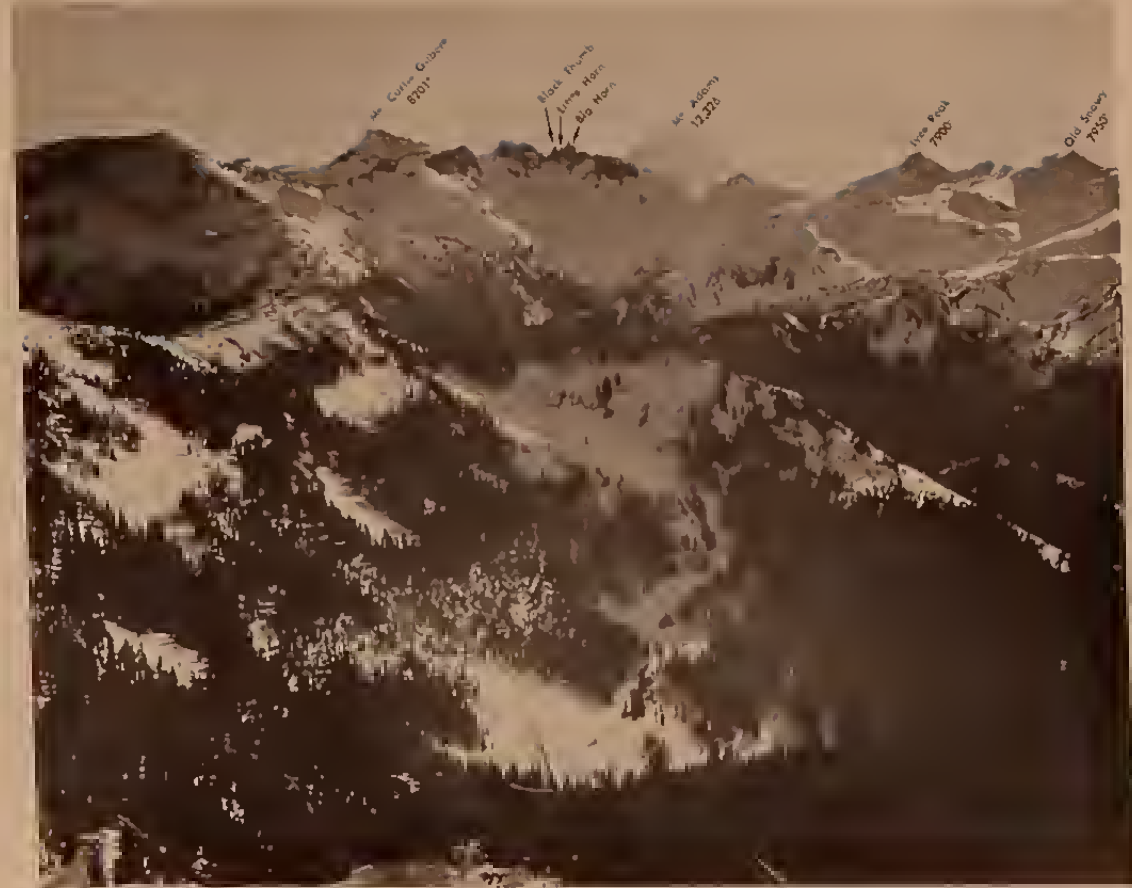
Summer is short-lived in the Goat Rocks. Thus the flowering season is rapid — one week the meadows are white with snow, the next they are white with avalanche fawnily and elskip marsh-marigold. As the season advances (late July), the early white varieties give way to the more colorful blooms.

The meadows are bathed in masses of reds, blues and yellows. The subalpine lupine in the meadows and the volcano lupine in the drier volcanic soils are familiar to all. Then there are the masses of "paint-brushes", both scarlet and magenta paintedcup — the latter varying in color from deep reddish-purple or magenta to yellow or white. Another common

flowering plant is the red mountain heath, known locally as red heather; occasionally the rare white blossoms of the Alaska heath may be seen. Most mountain travelers are familiar with the featherbed characteristics of the heather. On the drier, rocky soils bounding the meadows, the attractive white-to-violet spreading phlox provides a natural border to the meadow gardens. There are many other species found in the Goat Rocks, but these are essentially the ones that provide the mass effect for which Snowgrass Flat and Cispus Basin are noted.



Spreading phlox



From Hogback Mountain, a panorama of the Goat Rocks.



This vista into Paradise Valley is characteristic of the forests and meadows of the Hudsonian Zone.



Monarchs of the rocks — these agile mountain goats search among the rocky ridges and ledges for such tempting morsels as grass, lichen, and moss.

WHAT TO DO

In this rugged mountain land supporting an abundance of varied scenery and terrain, there are opportunities for both summer and winter recreation. During the winter, the visitor may enter via the White Pass chair lift and ski cross country to Hogback Mountain. From the summit, the skier is rewarded by a panorama of the Goat Rocks Wild Area. The return to White Pass is over open slopes and often deep powder snow. Winter travel is not limited to the skier, for snowshoes, especially the trail type, provide a satisfactory means of transportation for exploring this winter wonderland.

Though summers are short-lived, activities are numerous. Summit ascents of varying difficulty are available for the alpinist. A system of trails for hikers and riders offers vistas of flower-studded meadows, peculiar rock formations, forested valleys and distant snow-capped peaks. These trails can be negotiated by young and old. Here the amateur geologist or botanist may examine a wealth of specimens. The photographer will forget the pressures of civilization as he captures the cautious mountain goat on film. Likewise, the hunter who ventures into this difficult land experiences a thrill when a trophy goat or bull elk is sighted.

WHERE TO CAMP

There are many delightful lakes and meadows within this mountain land. Shoe Lake, McGill Basin and Snowgrass Flat are recommended as camp sites when saddle and pack animals are being used. There are meadows with abundant forage at each of these points. These points are otherwise very desirable camp spots. Excellent camp sites without forage will be found at Lost Lake, Egg Butte, Lily Lake and numerous other points in this wild country.

FOREST OFFICES NEAR THE WILD AREA

Further information relating to routes, trails and points of interest can be obtained from these forest offices:

Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Vancouver
Pockwood Ranger Station	Packwood
Snoqualmie National Forest	Seattle
Tieton Ranger Station	Naches



PREVENT FOREST FIRES

VEGETATION

Students of plant ecology have identified three vegetative life zones in this Wild Area: the Canadian, the Hudsonian, and the Arctic-Alpine. These life zones are essentially altitudinal divisions, but the separations are not often sharply defined.

The Canadian Zone is essentially a forested zone supporting such species as Pacific silver fir, Alaska yellow-cedar, noble fir, and western white pine. Also within this zone are numerous associate plants such as princess pine, pipsissewa, mountain blueberry, boxwood, and bunchberry dogwood.

The Hudsonian Zone supports broad meadows, sparkling streams and exquisite flower gardens. Clumps of alpine fir and mountain hemlock dot the area and here and there a twisted whitebark pine struggles to survive. Snowgrass Flat and Cispus Basin are examples of this zone.

The Arctic-Alpine Zone is a land of barren rocky soils, rock conglomerate slopes, expansive snowfields and creeping glaciers. The climate is so rigorous that only a few hardy perennials exist. One of the most attractive is the deep blue lyall lupine. These leguminous plants have an important position in this region for they take the nitrogen from the air and introduce it to the soil. The story of the Arctic-Alpine Zone is one of a complicated struggle for existence.



The high mountain meadows offer succulent grasses for wildlife.

WILDLIFE

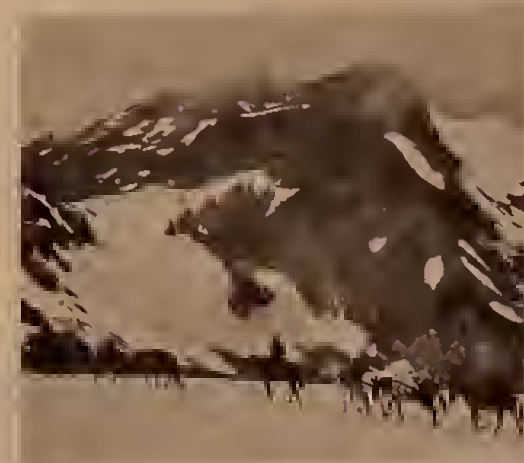
Receding snows, during the summer months, uncover succulent grosses in Nannie Basin and upper Lake Creek Valley. Often herds of Rocky Mountain elk are observed feeding in these basins in comfort, for cool summer breezes keep the high meadows relatively free of the insects that are so annoying at the lower elevations. Mountain goats are native to the less accessible sections of this land. These rug-

ged animals nibble on lichens, mosses and grasses among the rock ledges and ridges. Other wildlife of particular interest include black-tailed deer, bear, coyotes and an occasional mountain lion. From his rocky domain, the whistling marmot challenges all intrusions by man. His shrill whistle is a warning to all neighbors within hearing distance to be on the alert. The pika or cony, resembling a small guinea pig, is often observed sitting motionless on a rock. These little animals generally live in slide rock and can be located by their characteristic short bleating call.

Although access may be difficult, many of the streams and lakes in the Wild Area are well stocked with native cutthroat, rainbow and eastern brook trout. Washington State game and fishing regulations apply within the Wild Area as on other National Forest lands.



The whistling marmot, from his domain, challenges all intruders.



Those using pack horses will find most trails negotiable though caution should be used while crossing snowfields or knife-edge ridges.

As you can see, the Goat Rocks Wild Area has a wealth of recreational activities. You are on your own to do as you please. Take it easy; test yourself. Do not go beyond your abilities. Also, remember that this land is fragile. Please be careful with your heritage.



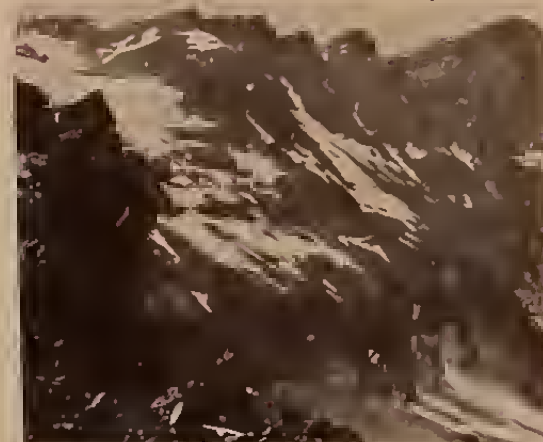
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You are on your own.



Needles and spires punctuate this mountain land. This unnamed landmark is located just northwest of Shoe Lake.

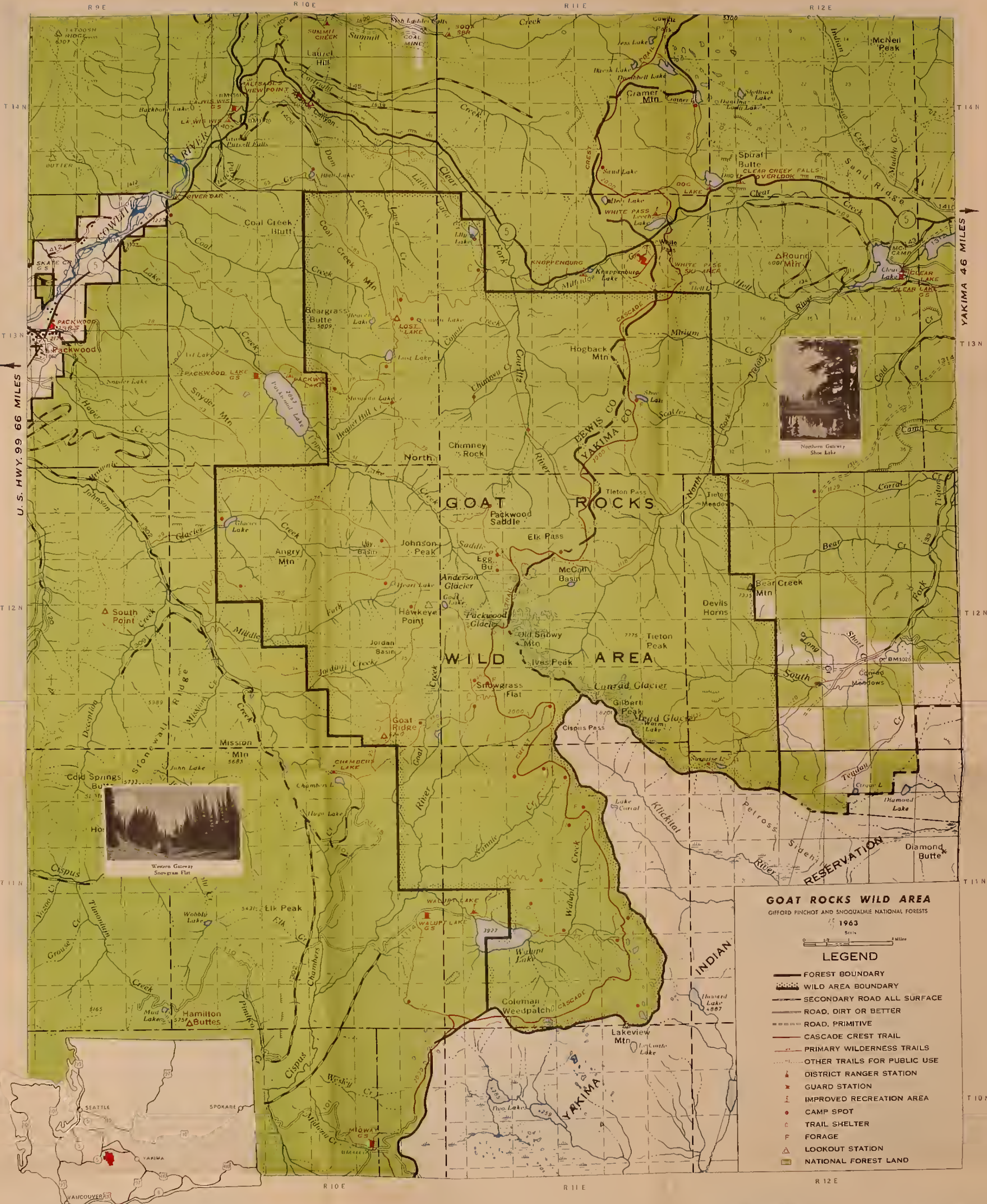


Today and for years to come, wind, rain and ice continue to change massive Johnson Mountain.

GEOLOGY

The Goat Rocks are essentially of volcanic structure, though there is a hint of non-volcanic formations throughout. The jumble of needles and spires are the result of violent volcanic storms followed by periods of rapid cooling. Rocks of all shapes and sizes may be observed — from pumice so light that it floats, to outcroppings of shale as thin as phonograph records.

Wind, rain, snow and ice continue to change and develop this land. Each year a new page is written in its geological history.



ROUTES TO THE WILDERNESS

- From the North: Drive on State Highway No. 5 to the summit of White Pass. At this point, the Cascade Crest Trail crosses the highway. Parking is available and now the backpacker can hike south along the Crest Trail. After a moderately steep climb for two miles, the hiker is in the Wild Area. If time is limited, take the White Pass chair lift to its terminus near the Wild Area boundary and gain a few hours head start on the foot traveler.
- From the South: This mountain land is accessible via the Cascade Crest Trail No. 2000 or Trail No. 101 from Wolup Lake, located on the edge of the Wild Area.
- From the East: Drive to the west end of Rimrock Lake and then turn onto forest road No. 143 and proceed around the west side of Clear Lake. Then take forest road No. 134 up the north fork of the Tieton River to the end of the road. From here, it is 3 miles to the Wild Area via trail No. 1118.
- From the West: Take either forest road No. 123 from Randle or No. 1302 from Packwood to road No. 1115, the Chambers Lake Road. Proceed to the Goat Ridge Trail No. 95, 1/4 mile south of Chambers Lake. After an easy mile hike, the backpacker is inside the Wild Area.

TRAIL TRIPS

Travel in the Goat Rocks is not limited to seasoned mountaineers. There are numerous one-day and overnight trips that offer scenery second to none, as well as exciting views of alpine wildlife. Following are just a few of the numerous trail trips available in this mountain wilderness land.

Suggested One-Day Trips for beginners and experienced hikers.

- An easy one-day trip which offers a rewarding view of the Packwood Glacier. One of the two elk herds which inhabit this region may be seen in upper Lake Creek. If you travel the knife-edge ridge trail with horses, lead them and proceed with extreme caution. In Section 16, look carefully to the west between Hawkeye Peak and Johnson Peak; among the rough outcrops, mountain goats may be seen.
Trail No. 2000, 1 North
- Snowgrass Flat to Goat Lake — Roundtrip — One Day
A pleasant one-day trip — expansive meadows with unique flower gardens are the order of the day. A good trip to local tired muscles. The more ambitious may tackle the steep, rocky trail from Goat Lake to Hawkeye Point. This trail is in poor condition, but the vistas from its terminus are most rewarding.
Trail No. 96, 86.1 and 95
- Snowgrass Flat to Clispus Pass — Roundtrip — One Day
This is a spectacular trip. Proceed south along the Cascade Crest Trail to Clispus Pass. Here a new section of trail leads to the west. This was built to facilitate horse travel. Foot travelers may proceed south across the snowfield to Nannie Basin. Here a second elk herd may be observed in their summer home.
Goats are not likely to be seen south of Ivus Peak.
Trail No. 2000 South

Suggested Overnight Trips for beginners and experienced hikers

- White Pass to Shoo Lake. Proceed south along the Cascade Crest Trail, a pleasant trip among forested ridge tops, which gradually opens into broad Alpine meadows. The Cascade Crest Trail climbs steeply towards a pass overlooking Shoo Lake. From this point the vista of the Goat Rocks is unforgettable. From Shoo Lake one-day or overnight trips can be made to McCall Basin with Old Snowy only a stones throw away.
Trail No. 2000
- McCall Basin to Egg Butte. From this excellent camp, proceed along the Cascade Crest Trail to Egg Butte. Descend steeply to Egg Butte. The view here may provide a view of elk and goats simultaneously.
Trail No. 2135 and No. 2000

CLIMBERS GUIDE (American Alpine Club)

- Mt. Curtis Gilbert (8201)
Route. From Snowgrass Flat (6300) take Cascade Crest Trail to Clispus Basin, 1 hour. At the foot of the rocks, diagonal up and right, reaching the summit ridge at a group of pinnacles on the west side. Climb around south side of a rock mass, "Clitadel," and on to final ridge above Conrad Glacier, which is followed east to the summit.
- Old Snowy (7950)
Route. From Snowgrass Flat follow the Cascade Crest Trail to where it begins to skirt

Packwood Glacier. Climb to summit via easy tows slope. The peak can also be climbed via the east side glacier by approach from the north fork Tieton Road. Time: 2-3 hours up.

Ivus Peak (7900)

Route. Approach similar to Old Snowy, but leave Cascade Crest Trail earlier and travel in an easterly direction. Ascend final pinnacle via lobby rocks of southeast side. Time: 2-3 hours up.

Big Horn (7900)

Route. From Snowgrass Flat hike on Cascade Trail to Clispus Basin. Leave trail at about 6000 foot level and diagonal easterly to summit of ridge extending southerly from the Goat Rocks massif. Follow this ridge to a broad rock couler leading to a small basin at the foot of the peak. Ascend a gully and chimney system northwest to the summit.

Little Horn (7800)

Route. Approach as for Big Horn to a small basin. From here, start from notch on the ridge east of Little Horn which overlooks Conrad Glacier. Traverse base of pinnacle on south across snowfield upward to west notch. Ascend by traversing ledges easterly across south face to chimney leading directly to the summit. There are 200 feet of rock climbing extending to class 4.

Black Thumb (7750)

Route. From small basin at the foot of the Horns, descend west to a notch on the east side at Black Thumb. Fifty feet of fairly difficult chimney leads to a ridge just north of summit.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR WILDERNESS

This alpine wilderness is in a very delicate state of ecological balance. Any careless act by man will surely result in the destruction of such areas in their natural state. It will take nature many years to repair such damages.

- Be careful with fire.
 - Do not smoke while hiking or riding, but rather stop at a safe place and extinguish your smoke before leaving.
 - Carefully extinguish your campfire with water. Do not bury live fire with dirt.
 - Law requires each party traveling with pack sling to carry a water container with 1 gallon or more capacity, a 36-inch shovel with 8-inch blade, and an ax with at least a two-pound head and 26-inch handle.
- Be good campers.
 - Keep and leave a clean camp.
 - Burn your garbage; cans should be burned, mashed and buried. Better yet, take them back out with you.
 - Plan camp sanitation.
 - Keep horses outside of camp areas.
 - Grazo your pack and saddle animals wisely and avoid over-use of meadows. Carry grain or palletized horse feed.
- All motorized travel is prohibited within the Wild Area.

WHAT TO DO IF LOST

The real danger in the mountains when lost is not man-eating bears or snuggling snakes, but it is yourself — PANIC. Panic, someone once said, "is when your heart is in your mouth, and your brains in your heels."

- Keep calm. Do not walk aimlessly. Trust your map and compass. Make a camp near water. Remember, without water you can live only two days; without food you can live two or three weeks.
- To find your position, climb to a place where you can see the surrounding terrain.
- If injured, keep calm. Stay where you are, clear an area down to mineral soil and build a signal fire and put green boughs on it. You will be found!
- Three signals of any kind, either audible or visible, is the nationwide SOS call in the mountains. Signal by three blasts from a whistle or three shots from a gun, three regulated puffs of smoke, or three flashes from a mirror or flashlight. Repeat at regular intervals. When the sign is recognized by a search party, it will be answered by two signals. Use this SOS call only when actually in need of help.
- Remember, Do Not Panic!

STOP! to smoke



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As you can see, the Goat Rocks Wild Area has a wealth of recreational activities. You are on your own to do as you please. Take it easy; test yourself. Do not go beyond your abilities. Also, remember that this land is fragile. Please be careful with your heritage.



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